

FIRE DESTROYS "ELLENWOOD," THE HISTORIC SKINKER HOME.

Guests of the Family Discover the Blaze— Paintings and Other Property Worth \$50,000 Lost.

Ellenwood, the home of Thomas K. Skinker, on the Skinker road just west of Forest Park, was totally destroyed by fire last night.

The house was worth from \$15,000 to \$20,000. In addition to this several rare paintings and historical portraits, collected within twenty years, were lost in the flames. A friend of the family said last night that the loss would be at least \$50,000.

The fire started at 7 o'clock. It was first discovered by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Eaton, who were responding to an invitation to a dinner party at the Skinker home. They were walking up the hill from the Forest Park and Clayton Railway to the Skinker home when one of them noticed a small blaze under the roof in the third story of the building.

The other guests, Thomas Galt and Miss Rena Galt of Vandewater place, and J. Allen Wheat, had already arrived, and with Mrs. Skinker, her two daughters, Misses Isabel and Bertha Skinker, and sons, Charles R. and Alex. R. Skinker, were just in the act of sitting down to the dinner table when Mr. and Mrs. Eaton burst into the room and announced that the house was on fire.

The party thought at first that a joke was being played, but when they saw the flames, they rushed to the roof to see what was the matter. Every one set about to remove as much of the furniture and library as possible. But there were eighteen rooms in the house, and it was a physical impossibility to remove all.

Three alarms of fire were turned in, and Engines Companies Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 and trucks Nos. 10 and 12 responded. One of the companies, No. 2, stuck in the mud on the

MORRISON JURY DISCHARGED; DEFENDANT MAY GO ON STAGE.

Twelve Men Unable to Agree—Nine Favored Acquittal—Judge Expected to Grant Bail and She Will Go East.

Wichita, Kas., Dec. 14.—Immediately after the jury in Jessie Morrison's murder case had been discharged, Miss Morrison went back to her cell, where reporters talked with her. She discussed the case freely.

"I do not much like the verdict, because I am glad nine men were for acquittal," she said.

"I am confident of acquittal in any new trial."

It is understood from reliable sources that Miss Morrison will go East within a few weeks and accept a position on the stage. She has had many offers. To-night she refused to discuss these plans further than to say:

"I am planning an Eastern trip. It will not be for amusement or recreation. I intend to earn enough money to pay the expenses of this trial."

It is said she will star in a traveling troupe.

Jury Came Near Acquitting.

Jessie Morrison's trial for the murder of Mrs. G. Olin Castle, whose life she is charged with having taken because of her love for Castle, ended to-day at noon in a hung jury.

Although the jury did not agree on a verdict, the result of their deliberations came near being an acquittal. Almost from the start, and before the case had been discussed by them, nine of the jurors voted for acquittal and three for conviction. The three holding out for manslaughter in the fourth degree, the punishment of which ranges from six months in jail to two years in the penitentiary.

The jurors had been out since Tuesday morning, and for the last three days, realizing that they could not reach a verdict, they had waited patiently for their discharge.

Judge Expected to Grant Bail.

The case will now go over to the spring court. At the meantime, Miss Morrison's lawyers will make application for her release on bond, which, it is believed, Judge Salin has already made up his mind to grant. It is not believed that another jury could be secured in the county to try the case.

Miss Morrison, who is a frail little woman, 29 years of age, had undergone a terrible strain during her five months' imprisonment, and the tedious three weeks' hearing of the case. She showed little anxiety or nervousness when she appeared in the courtroom to-day, and, after the jury had been discharged, walked quietly with her retainer to her cell. There she threw herself upon her cot and wept violently.

Prisoner's Father Centified.

Prisoner's father, who has attended his daughter daily through the trial, said that he was very much encouraged.

"It seems that there is not much doubt of Jessie's innocence," he said. Then he added: "I hear a good many folks say if the County Attorney does the right thing he will dismiss the case."

County Attorney Bramback is quoted as saying this afternoon:

"It was all a farce. I knew that there were three jurors favorable to the State and three favorable to the defense. The three holding out for manslaughter in the fourth degree, the punishment of which ranges from six months in jail to two years in the penitentiary."

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MACARTHUR ORDERS SOLDIER TO BE SHOT

Lynn Skinner, a Connecticut Vol- unteer, Slept at His Post While on Sentry Duty.

Southampton, Conn., Dec. 14.—News has reached here in the form of an official communication from General MacArthur that Lynn Skinner, a former resident of the village of Plainville, has been sentenced to be shot on Christmas Day for sleeping at his post on sentry duty in the Philippines.

The young man is a member of the Forty-third United States Volunteer Infantry, now stationed near Tacloban, near Manila. His father, John P. Skinner, who is 71 years old, is nearly heart-broken by the news and has left for Washington to plead with President McKinley for his son's life.

According to information received in Plainville to-day, the aged father has been so seriously acted by the news of his son's disgrace that he may not live until Christmas Day.

KWANG HSU AGREES TO MANY OF THE POWERS' DEMANDS.

Tien-Tsin, Dec. 14.—According to credible Chinese sources of information, Emperor Kwang Hsu will agree to the following ten demands of the Powers:

First—Indemnity to the amount of 500,000,000 taels, payable within thirty years and guaranteed by the Likin.

Second—The erection in Peking of a suitable monument to the memory of Baron von Ketteler.

Third—An imperial Prince, a near relative to the Emperor, to go to Berlin to apologize and express regret for the murder.

Fourth—Foreign troops to hold the lines of communication between Taku and Peking.

Fifth—Punishment of the Boxer officials.

Sixth—Candidates from districts where anti-foreign outrages have been perpetrated not to be allowed to compete in the Chinese examinations in Peking for five years.

Seventh—Abolition of the Teung Li Yamen.

Eighth—Foreign envoys to have access to the Emperor at all times.

Ninth—Importation of arms and ammunition into the Province of Chi-Li to be abolished.

Tenth—The land and sea forces between Shan-Hai-Kwan, Taku and Peking to be destroyed.



Pauncefote: "That doesn't look like our treaty."

BUSINESS FAILURE FOLLOWS SUICIDE.

Assignment of Jacob Stumpf Car- pet Company Sequel to Its President's Tragic Death.

LIABILITIES NEARLY \$20,000.

Officers of the Concern Say the Books Which Mr. Stumpf Left Show That the Business Was Entangled.

As a sequel to the suicide last Tuesday of Jacob Stumpf, president of the Jacob Stumpf Carpet Company, an assignment was made yesterday by Gustave A. Keller and Philip Steller, vice president and secretary of the company. Peter A. Doerr, cashier of the Jefferson Bank, was named as trustee for the creditors.

The exact condition of the affairs of the company had not been ascertained yesterday, but Mr. Doerr said last night, at his home, No. 126 Victor street, that the liabilities were close to \$20,000, that, in his opinion, the assets would reach \$10,000.

Mr. Stumpf lived at No. 125 South Fourteenth street, and the night before he killed himself, he and his family attended the Altemein Bazaar. He appeared in good spirits, but when he retired that night it was the last time his wife or daughters saw him alive. He shot himself through the heart Tuesday morning.

As Mr. Stumpf had kept the books of the company, the status of his business affairs could not be at once determined, and his health was thought to have furnished the motive for his deed. Subsequent investigation by the other officers of the concern, which was a stock company, developed that the business was entangled. The interests of the stockholders were placed in the hands of Herman A. Steinwender, and the latter filed the deed of assignment at the Recorder of Deeds office. Mr. Doerr consented to act as trustee at the request of the stockholders.

Mr. Doerr said last night that the business of Jacob Stumpf had long been embarrassed, but that the failure was directly due to his own mismanagement. He said that the company's trade, until 1898 the business was run by Mr. Stumpf himself. But at this time a stock company was formed, and Messrs. Keller and Steller, employees of the old firm, were elected vice president and secretary of the new company.

Mr. Keller lives at No. 1032 Hickory street, and Mr. Steller at No. 234 South Twelfth street. Both said that they knew nothing of the financial condition of the business before the death of Mr. Stumpf. The indebtedness is mostly to Eastern firms.

ITALIAN QUARRIES SOLD TO AMERICAN.

Senator Proctor Makes a \$10,000,000 Deal Which Gives Him Control of World's Output.

Rome, Dec. 14.—Representatives of Senator Bedford Proctor of Vermont arrived at Leghorn this week, and are closing up a deal through Cassinelli & Co. of Genoa, representing Alexander Konta, by which Senator Proctor takes over the entire quarrying business in Italy. The Senator's acquisition will give the Senator practical control of the marble output of the world. The consolidation, it is believed, will result in reducing the cost of production. The price is understood to approximate \$10,000,000.

HEAVY SNOW IN WISCONSIN.

Precipitation Is Fifteen Inches and It Is Still Falling.

Mantowau, Wis., Dec. 14.—A heavy snow-storm from the northeast has prevailed in this section since early to-day and continues to-night. Over fifteen inches of snow has fallen.

SENATE MAY FURTHER AMEND CANAL TREATY.

Committee Wants Hay-Pauncefote Agree- ment to Supersede the Clayton- Bulwer Convention.

Clause Providing Adherence by Powers Eliminated—President Will Lay Present Paper Before Great Britain— Late Senator Davis's Position.

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Senator Butler then entered objection to fixing a time for a vote.

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Senator Spooner combated the arguments of Mr. Culberson. He said that he favored the canal and believed the United States should have the right to fortify and defend it, but he could not accept the view that we should proceed in that great work in total disregard of the existence of the agreement of 1850.

Great Britain, he said, is a friendly power, and he would not recommend any ruthless proceedings. But he would go to the work of preparing for the construction of the canal, and he would insure the support and good will of a kindred people. He was, therefore, an advocate of the pending negotiations.

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True, the proposition had been acted upon by the State Department without consulting Congress, but at any rate, the incidents at least indicated the English attitude upon the question of abrogation.

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RECEPTION TO GERMAN TROOPS

Kaiser Plans Imposing March of Soldiers From China.

Berlin, Dec. 14.—(Copyright, 1900, by the New York Herald Company.)—The Kaiser intends to give a solemn reception on Sunday to the German troops which have returned from China. They comprise sailors and marines, and amount to a thousand strong. Among them are the crew of the Huls and soldiers who took part in the Seymour expedition. They will arrive at the Lehrter Railway Station on Saturday afternoon.

The spectacle is expected to be a most imposing one. The troops will march in procession through the Brandenburg gate and up Unter den Linden to the palace.

ST. LOUIS ARCHITECT HONORED.

W. S. Eames Elected Vice Presi- dent of the American Institute.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The American Institute of Architects to-day selected Buffalo as the city in which to hold the next annual convention. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Robert Falkner of Boston; vice president, W. S. Eames of St. Louis; second vice president, Frank Miles Day of Philadelphia; secretary and treasurer, Glenn Brown of Washington, D. C.; Board of Directors for one year, John Carver of New York, James McLaughlin of Cincinnati and R. C. Strickland of Boston.

MINOR CONTEST CASES CLOSED.

Kentucky Court of Appeals Over- ruled Motion for Rehearing.

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 14.—The Court of Appeals to-day, in an opinion by Judge Hobson, overruled the petition for a rehearing of the contest for the minor State offices. This closes these cases finally.

ALVORD PLEADS NOT GUILTY.

He Is Arraigned and His Trial Set for December 26.

New York, Dec. 14.—Cornelius L. Alvord, Jr., the defaulting teller of the First National Bank, was arraigned before Judge Thomas in the criminal part of the United States Circuit Court and pleaded not guilty. Judge Thomas set the trial for December 26.

WILD STORM SWEEPS OVER SAN FRANCISCO.

Wire Communication With the Outside World Was Cut Off for Half a Day.

San Francisco, Dec. 14.—One of the severest storms which ever visited San Francisco broke over the city at an early hour this morning, and raged until noon in fitful gusts, rain and wind sweeping over the city with unusual violence and being accompanied by thunder and forked lightning. A rather unusual occurrence in this part of the country. At one time rain fell in such torrents that many thought a cloud-burst was imminent.

During the height of the storm several houses were overturned by the wind and one of the great receiving tanks of the San Francisco Gas and Electric Company was struck by lightning, the gas taking fire. No one was hurt in the explosion, but the tank was demolished. The city was entirely cut off from telegraphic communication with the rest of the world, the telegraph companies being every wire out of San Francisco. The damage to telegraphic wires is being repaired rapidly, but this evening only partial service is being given. The bulk of the damage to the wires was caused by the blowing down of about 100 poles on the Oakland side of the bay. Some damage was done in the mountains, but nothing definite can be stated as to the extent. The telephone companies also lost many of its long-distance wires.

So far no marine disasters of any moment have been reported. On the bay several boats capsized, but no one was drowned so far as known.

Reports from short distances from San Francisco tell of much damage by storm. Buildings were blown over or unroofed in many sections, but no fatalities have been reported. The storm ceased almost evenly at noon.

The famous wooden cross on Lone Mountain, which has been a San Francisco landmark for thirty years, was blown down to-day during the storm. Some boys who were playing on the mountain dug a cave in the sand at the foot of the cross, and while playing robbers' den they built a fire. This fire communicated to the supports of the cross and the high wind forced it down. It will probably be rebuilt, as it served as a guide to mariners, standing out against the sky and serving as a guide to pilots in entering the harbor.

LEADING TOPICS TO-DAY'S REPUBLIC.

For Missouri—Partly cloudy Saturday, Sunday, fair; easterly winds. For Illinois—Partly cloudy Saturday, Sunday, fair; easterly winds. For Arkansas—Fair Saturday and Sunday; variable winds.

PART I.

1. Skinker Home Destroyed.
2. Morrison Jury Discharged.
3. Senate May Further Amend Canal Treaty.
4. Failure Follows Suicide.
5. Divorce Promoter Found Guilty.
6. Santa Fe Strikers Confront.
7. Reward Asked for Veterans.
8. Mr. Dupont Becomes Transit Official.
9. Race-Track Results.
10. Reviews of Trade.
11. Woman Stole to Secure Vengeance.
12. Editorial.
13. Notes From Women's Clubs.
14. London Seeking Year's Best Books.
15. Pastor Fannon May Remain.
16. Trouble in Store for Saloonkeepers.

PART II.

1. Instances of Criminal Precocity.
2. Deputy Martin to Be Tried First.
3. Exposition Bill Amendments.
4. Doctor Palmer on Wineson Evil.
5. Bow's Classmates to Be Witnesses.
6. Chosen Friends May Reorganize.
7. General Harrison Criticizes Administration.
8. Disappointed in Stage Aspirations.
9. More Money for National Guard.
10. Grinding Axes for Dawes Commission.
11. Luzon Volunteers Being Relieved.
12. Drastic Grand Jury Charge in Chicago.
13. Special Train Bore Them to Sick Child.
14. Republic Want Advertisements.
15. Record of Births, Marriages, Deaths.
16. New Corporations.
17. Republic Want Advertisements.
18. The Weather.
19. City News in Brief.
20. Grain and Produce.
21. Cattle Sales.
22. Financial News.
23. River Telegrams.
24. Home and Fashion Topics.

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